

CLERK: Mr. President, there are E & R amendments to LB 129.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kilgarin.

SENATOR KILGARIN: I move the E & R amendments to LB 129.

SPEAKER MARVEL: All in favor of that motion say aye, opposed no. The motion is carried. The E & R amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend the bill. The amendment is on page 2063 of the Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, my amendment deals with a problem that has been brought to my attention from my district, in Lincoln, Nebraska, and any city in the state, the process you go through to challenge a liquor license application is a very complicated one. In Lincoln, for instance, you have a proposal to go to the Liquor Control Commission. That is then referred to the city council here. They have a hearing on that proposal, they make a decision and it goes to the mayor. The mayor makes a decision. It goes back to the Liquor Commission. They can ignore it or support it or they really don't need to follow that local advice at all. Nevertheless, it is done as a proforma, I think, activity. At that point the Liquor Commission then holds a hearing. Now the problem that has come up in Lincoln and probably elsewhere in the state is the problem where the average guy on the street, the common citizen who is a bit concerned about a neighborhood bar being brought in feels as though they have an obstacle before them if they want to challenge that liquor license application. They have to put up a hundred dollar surety bond in order to get a chance to appear before the Liquor Commission and oppose a liquor license application. Now think of the possibilities if this Legislature would ask for a hundred dollar surety bond and use some of that to pay for the expenses of holding our public hearings. I think it is quite reasonable to expect that any public body should have as little barrier or obstacle as possible to allowing citizens to express themselves on a liquor license application or any other public decision that needs to be made and so I know that there are many citizens in my district in University Place which has regularly opposed liquor license applications and that the concern that has been expressed there is probably shared by others in the state that it should be an easy thing for people to protest a liquor license. Not only do they have to put up a hundred dollar surety bond but they have to put that up and file their requests for a hearing within three